



I. AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 3-6 and 11-24 without prejudice to renewal.

Please enter the amendments to claims 1, 25, and 27, as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A polynucleotide present in other than its natural environment encoding a polypeptide that exhibits monoacylglycerol and/or diacylglycerol acyltransferase activity and comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 95% [[90%]] nucleotide sequence identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:03.

2. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said encoded polypeptide exhibits diacylglycerol acyltransferase activity.

3.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) An expression cassette comprising a transcriptional initiation region functional in an expression host, a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence found in the polynucleotide according to claim 1 under the transcriptional regulation of said transcriptional initiation region, and a transcriptional termination region functional in said expression host.

8. (Original) A cell comprising an expression cassette according to claim 7 as part of an extrachromosomal element or integrated into the genome of a host cell as a result of introduction of said expression cassette into said host cell.

9. (Original) The cellular progeny of the cell according to claim 8.

10. (Previously presented) A method of producing a polypeptide that exhibits monoacylglycerol and/or diacylglycerol acyltransferase activity, said method comprising: growing a cell according to claim 8, whereby said polypeptide is expressed; and isolating said polypeptide substantially free of other proteins.

11.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said encoded polypeptide exhibits monoacylglycerol acyltransferase ~~transferase~~ activity and diacylglycerol acyltransferase activity.

26. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said encoded polypeptide has a length of from about 300 amino acids to about 500 amino acids.

27. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said encoded polypeptide has at least about 98% ~~[[90%]]~~ amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO:04.